

that number. Two hundred and fifty copies were proposed as a sufficient number: five to be sent to the clerk of each county, one given to each member of the legislature, and the remainder to be deposited in the library.

Upon enquiry, the undersigned have ascertained that the saving to the State by reducing the number of copies of the journals, even to the extent proposed, would not exceed fifty cents per page,—a very inconsiderable amount compared with the advantages of a diffuse and general circulation. If the proposed reduction was made by the Legislature, not one dozen copies of the journal could be found in any county; and however desirous the people might be to ascertain the votes and proceedings of their public agents, while transacting the public business, not a copy of the journal could be found, except in the hands of the agents themselves, or deposited with the clerk of the county as a public record.

In some of the counties of the State, it is true, copies of the journals are left uncalled for: but this occurs principally from the fact, that many officers are appointed who never qualify, and are therefore, not entitled to the copies which are sent to the county for them. In most of the counties, it is believed, the copies are regularly called for and taken away; and the undersigned are of opinion, that the people would have just cause of complaint, if the public officers of the State, who have ever since the existence of the government, been supplied with these valuable documents, and to which the people, when their elections come on, are in the habit of resorting for information as to the conduct of their public agents, were denied this customary right, according to the proposed reduction.

All which is respectfully submitted,

J. H. CULBRETH,  
J. W. CRISFIELD.